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David Cameron (left), leader of the Conservative Party and Nick Clegg (right), leader of the Liberal Democrats

NEW PRIME MINISTER OF THE UK

On 11th May David Cameron officially became prime minister of the United Kingdom (UK). At 43 years of age he is the youngest prime minister of the country for nearly 200 years.

The UK is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Many people also use the names Britain or Great Britain for the UK. The country is a constitutional monarchy. This means the monarch, currently Queen Elizabeth the Second, is the head of state, but the country is run by a parliament. The monarch acts only as a figurehead.

The UK's parliament meets in the Palace of Westminster, in London, the capital city. It has two 'houses'. One is called the House of Commons and the other the House of Lords. The House of Commons has 650 elected members, known as Members of Parliament or MPs. Most people in the House of Lords are appointed and

none is elected. The job of the House of Lords is to check all the laws passed by the House of Commons.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own regional parliaments or assemblies. These make local decisions and are separate from the Westminster parliament.

The prime minister runs the UK. He or she is the leader of the political party with the most 'seats', or MPs, in the House of Commons. The prime minister and his or her family live in a house called 10 Downing Street, near the Palace of Westminster.

In the UK the prime minister may 'call' an election (known as a general election) whenever he or she wants to. Yet a general election must always be held within five years of the previous one. The last one was in 2005.

The UK is divided into 650 areas called constituencies. Each elects one MP

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to the House of Commons. So even the prime minister has his or her own constituency. One of an MP's main jobs is to represent the views of people in his or her constituency.

The Labour Party, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats are the UK's main political parties. Since 1997 the Labour Party has had the most seats in the House of Commons. The Labour Party also won the general elections held in 2001 and 2005. The Labour Party's leader, and the UK's prime minister, since 2007 has been

Gordon Brown. David Cameron leads the Conservative Party.

The general election was held on 6th May. The UK's voting system is known as 'first past the post'. It simply means the person who gets the most votes in a constituency is elected.

The first past the post system means one party usually gets a majority (or over half of the 650 seats) in the House of Commons. This party's leader becomes prime minister. A majority is usually needed so the government can outvote all the other parties when it wants to make laws.

Other countries have different systems. In many, the number of members of parliament depends on the total percentage of votes their party gets. This system is called proportional representation or PR. When PR is used it is unusual for one party to get a majority. Parties then have to join together in what are known as coalitions.

Due to the first past the post system coalition governments in the

UK are unusual. Yet this election was different. The Conservative Party won 305 seats, the Labour Party 258 and the Liberal Democrats 57. Smaller parties won the rest. To get a majority a party needs a minimum of 325 (half of the total of 650). So although the Conservative Party won the most seats it did not get a majority. The percentages of the total votes for each of the main parties were 36%, 29% and 21%.

In the UK, when no party gets a majority it is called a 'hung parliament'. This meant each party had an important decision to make. The two main parties had to decide if they wanted to form a coalition with the one that came third. The Liberal Democrats had to decide whether it was best to join with the Conservative or the Labour Party.

The Liberal Democrats held several days of talks with both the Conservative and the Labour Parties. During this time Gordon Brown officially continued to be the prime minister of the country.

On 11th May the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives declared they had agreed to join together. Soon afterwards it was announced that Nick Clegg, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, would become the deputy prime minister. By nine o'clock that evening the UK had its first coalition government for 70 years and Mr Cameron and his wife had moved into 10 Downing Street. ■



OIL LEAK IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

Oil is continuing to leak from a broken pipe in the Gulf of Mexico. The leak began after an explosion on an oil rig that was bringing oil up from deep under the seabed. Environmental scientists have called the oil leak a disaster.

Eleven people died in the oil rig explosion on 20th April. Since then thousands of litres of oil have been leaking from the broken pipe every day. As oil floats on water, a huge oil slick is now covering large areas of sea off the coast of the American states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.



Satellite picture of oil leak taken on 17th May

Long booms, or floating barriers, have been set up to try to stop the oil from washing onto the shoreline. Environmentalists predict the oil in the sea will kill many marine creatures and seabirds in this part of the Gulf of Mexico. And it's feared that if the oil does reach the hundreds of islands and sandbanks that make up the River Mississippi's **delta**, many types of water birds, which build nests in this area, and animals will also suffer.

The oil rig destroyed by the explosion was working on behalf of BP – a company based in the UK. BP is one of the largest oil companies in the world. Since the accident

happened the company, with help from the American government, has been trying to stop the leak and to prevent the oil slick from reaching the coast. Special chemicals have been sprayed on the slick to break the oil down. Over 500 boats have been skimming or collecting the oil floating on the sea and some parts of the slick have been set on fire.

BP hoped to stop the leak by making large metal dome-like structures that were to be lowered over the leaking pipes. The domes were designed so pipes could be connected to the tops of them. These pipes would bring the oil to the surface where it could be collected in large ships. But the first dome to be lowered onto the leaking pipe did not work. The engineers say this was because of the gas that is coming up from deep underground with the oil. The gas formed ice-like crystals that blocked the pipe at the top of the dome.

A team of expert engineers and scientists has been brought together to try to find a way to stop the oil leak. On 16th May BP announced it had used remote-controlled submarine vehicles to insert a long tube deep into the leaking pipe. Called a 'riser', it will be able to take some of the leaking oil to the surface, but not all of it.

The engineers are now planning to do what they describe as a 'junk shot'. This is forcing a mixture of cut-up rubber tyres, golf balls, pieces of rope and cement into the leaking pipe. It's hoped the junk will 'jam' together to block the pipe.

In the meantime another oil well is being drilled nearby. This will meet the one with the broken pipe deep underground. Large amounts of mud and concrete will then be pumped through the new well into the leaking one to block it. This method has

worked in other parts of the world, but it could take four or five weeks to complete the drilling of the new well.

Barack Obama, the president of the USA, has set up a Presidential Commission, or committee, to investigate the oil leak. These commissions look for the causes of problems or accidents and recommend what should be done to stop them from happening again. ■

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Noynoy Aquino has been elected president of the Philippines. He won the country's presidential election held on 10th May. On the same day people living in the Philippines elected members of the country's Congress, or parliament, as well as thousands of local government officials.

Mr Aquino, who is 50 years old, is the son of Corazon Aquino. Mrs Aquino, known as 'Cory', was a popular former president of the Philippines.



Noynoy Aquino

For many years the Philippines was run as a dictatorship by Ferdinand Marcos. His main opponents included Mrs Aquino's husband and the new president's father, Benigno Aquino. Mr Marcos kept Benigno Aquino in prison for several years. In 1980 he and his family were allowed to go to live in the USA. But

NewsCAST

DEMOCRACY PROTEST — A candidate in this month's presidential election in Colombia has complained that the media is not giving him enough attention. He believes newspapers and reporters are deliberately ignoring him. This, he claims, is undemocratic. So to make news reporters and newspapers broadcast and write about him he has chained himself to a statue in Bogotá, the country's capital city. He has also declared he will go on hunger strike to protest about the lack of democracy in Colombia. The statue is of Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) – a national hero who fought for the independence of many South American countries.

three years later he decided to return to the Philippines. As soon as Benigno Aquino arrived at the airport, he was shot and killed by supporters of President Marcos.

After ruling the country for over 20 years President Marcos decided to hold a presidential election in 1986. Many people asked Mrs Aquino to stand against him. She was reluctant to do so and claimed she was 'just a housewife'. Eventually, she agreed. But after the election had been held it was announced that Mr Marcos had won. Many suspected he and his supporters had cheated. Thousands of people, including Mrs Aquino, held street protests. These huge demonstrations were nicknamed 'People Power'. Mr Marcos was forced to leave the country and Mrs Aquino became the country's new president.

One new law Mrs Aquino introduced was that a president may serve only one term of six years. Her

time as president therefore ended in 1992. Mrs Aquino died last year at the age of 76.

Noynoy Aquino has been an elected politician for 12 years. He said it was only after his mother died last year that he decided to take part in the presidential election.

The election was the country's first 'automated vote'. For the first time election officials used computerised machines to count the voting forms. Over 76,000 counting machines were used. A few days before the election, software problems were found in a few of them. These were quickly replaced. Election officials said using the new voting machines had been a success.

The announcement of the result has been delayed while authorities investigate an accusation of miscounting. But most officials believe the election was fair, and as Mr Aquino leads by more than five million votes, the investigation won't change the result. Nine candidates took part. Noynoy Aquino's election promises include working to stop government corruption, and improving education and healthcare.

Gloria Arroyo is the current, or incumbent, president of the Philippines. Noynoy Aquino will now officially take over from her at the end of June. ■

NUCLEAR FUEL SWAP

On 17th May many world leaders were surprised by an announcement made in Tehran, the capital of Iran. Turkey, Brazil and Iran said they had made an agreement, which, they claim, solves the problem about Iran's nuclear program.

For many years the USA, the UK and several other European

countries have accused Iran of planning to make nuclear weapons. Iran has admitted it is carrying out nuclear experiments but denies that it wants to make nuclear weapons. It insists its nuclear program has been set up for medical research and to generate electricity from nuclear power.



The president of Brazil (left), Iran's president (centre) and the prime minister of Turkey (right)

Uranium can be used to make both nuclear power and nuclear weapons. To do this it must be 'concentrated', or enriched. To make nuclear power uranium must be enriched to between three and four percent. Yet for a nuclear weapon it needs to be 90% enriched. Enrichment is a complicated process and can take a long time.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is based in Vienna, the capital of Austria. The Agency works with the United Nations (UN). One of its jobs is to inspect countries that use nuclear power to make sure they are not using uranium to develop nuclear weapons. Iran has refused to let the IAEA inspect all its enrichment facilities. So other countries, such as the USA, have become suspicious.

A group made up of the USA, Russia, France and the IAEA – called the Vienna Group – was set up to try to get Iran to stop its nuclear enrichment program. The Vienna Group made an offer to Iran earlier this year. The Group promised to supply

nuclear fuel for Iran's medical research reactor. In return Iran was to hand over its enriched uranium and shut down its enrichment program. But Iran refused to accept the offer.

Recently the USA has been trying to persuade countries that are members of the UN Security Council to impose strict sanctions on Iran. Sanctions are a type of punishment when countries agree to stop trade – the buying and selling of certain goods and services – with another country.

The permanent members of the Security Council are the USA, Russia, China, France and the UK. The Security Council also has ten non-permanent members. The membership of these countries rotates, or changes, every few years. Currently both Turkey and Brazil are non-permanent members. Some Security Council members, such as Russia and China, have been unsure about imposing sanctions on Iran.

The new agreement was announced after discussions among President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The agreement says Iran will hand over its enriched uranium to Turkey. In return it wants the Vienna Group to give it the nuclear fuel it needs for its medical research reactor within the next 12 months.

Russia, China and the UN said they welcomed the news. But the USA is not so sure. It complains Iran has still not agreed to close its enrichment program. The UN Security Council will hold a vote on whether to impose sanctions on Iran next month. Turkey and Brazil insist that the agreement they made with Iran means there is now no need for sanctions. ■

LASER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

by Dr Carol Ballard

Fifty years ago, on 16th May 1960, scientists in California, in the USA, switched on for the first time a new device they had been working on. A narrow beam of red light emerged from it and laser technology had begun.

Several other scientists claimed to have been the first to invent the laser. But the team in California, led by Theodore Maiman, [patented](#) its device before anybody else. At the time, nobody could have predicted how useful lasers would become in the future.

The word 'laser' stands for 'Light Amplification by [Stimulated](#) Emission of Radiation'. Light is a type of radiation. White light is made up of a spectrum, or colours of the rainbow. Yet a laser creates a beam of light of a single colour. While other light sources, such as light bulbs, give off light in all directions, light from a laser travels in only one direction.

Everything in the world is made up of particles called atoms. An atom contains a nucleus and tiny particles called electrons, which orbit the nucleus. Electrons are able to absorb extra energy. When they do, they're said to be 'excited'. In a laser, an energy source is used to excite the electrons of a substance such as a type of crystal. The excited electrons are then stimulated to release their extra energy as light.

This light in turn stimulates other excited electrons, which release even more light energy. This growing amount of light bounces backwards and forwards between two parallel mirrors within the laser. This process is called 'stimulated emission'. One of the mirrors has a small gap in the silvering on its glass. Eventually, the concentrated light passes out through this small gap as a laser beam.

Like the first laser, many modern-day lasers use a crystal of ruby. Other types of laser use metals, gasses, liquids, or substances called semi-conductors. The different materials produce different colours of light. Some lasers emit only a small

amount of light energy. Others produce a very powerful light beam, which can damage the eyes and other body [tissues](#). Strict safety rules have to be followed where powerful lasers are used.

Today lasers are used in many different ways. For example, supermarkets use lasers to scan barcodes on products their customers buy. And police use lasers in speed guns when checking a driver's speed.

Surgeons can use lasers to remove a medical problem such as a tumour without damaging the healthy tissues around it. Lasers are also used to heal small tears at the back of the eye and to seal blood vessels. Dentists may even use a laser instead of a drill.

The light from a laser can be concentrated onto a very small point. It makes the light beam very intense so it can heat or melt material extremely accurately. This is useful when drilling holes in hard substances such as rocks, metals or diamonds.

Scientists also use lasers to study the structures of atoms and to set off chemical reactions. The world's biggest and most powerful laser is at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) in

California, in the USA. Scientists will soon begin to use it to try to produce energy by a process called nuclear fusion.

A laser beam can travel huge distances in outer space without getting weaker. This makes lasers ideal for space communications. Lasers are now used in telephones, computer systems, internet communications, and to play CDs and DVDs. Laser beams are also used for entertainment. For instance, light displays in the night sky at outdoor events are created using coloured laser beams.

Although lasers are already used in many different things, laser research is continuing all the time. Designs are being improved and new applications tested. Scientists are very excited about the possible developments the next 50 years of laser technology will bring.



Laser beam

ASH CLOUD RETURNS

Thousands of air travellers in Europe have again suffered flight delays because of ash from an erupting volcano in Iceland.

The volcano, called Eyjafjallajökull (pronounced aya-vel-lo-kulth), first began erupting at the end of March. Ash from the eruption is being thrown high up into the atmosphere and then spread over a wide area by the wind.

Aircraft engines can be damaged if too many of the tiny pieces of volcanic ash get inside them. Officials in charge of airline travel and safety have had to make decisions about whether it is safe for aircraft to take off and land in places covered by the moving cloud of ash.



Eyjafjallajökull eruption in Iceland

In April most of the airports in northern Europe were ordered to close. The closure lasted for six days. Thousands of flights were cancelled. Passengers were stranded in many parts of the world from which they were travelling to northern Europe.

Since the six-day closure the ash cloud has continued to cause problems for some European airports. For example, on 11th May most airports in Spain were ordered to close for 24 hours. The ash even reached North Africa. Airports in Morocco were ordered to shut down.

Many airlines operating in Europe have been losing a lot of

NewsCAST

OUT OF TUNE — Some religious leaders in Istanbul, in Turkey, are to be given singing lessons after people complained about how badly they sang. In Muslim countries it is traditional for an imam to call people to prayer five times a day. The imam sings the call to prayer from a mosque or [minaret](#). Special classes have been set up for imams to learn to sing in tune because of the complaints. An official said if the singing lessons do not help, a mosque can use a radio to broadcast an imam from somewhere else who can sing the call to prayer tunefully.

money because of the airport closures. Some have complained that the authorities have been too strict, and say small amounts of ash do not affect aircraft engines. A few companies flew aircraft with no passengers on board through some of the ash cloud. The engines were then inspected for damage.

On 16th and 17th May airports in many parts of the UK, Ireland and the Netherlands were again ordered to shut. This time the closure lasted for around 12 hours. At least 1,000 flights had to be cancelled.

Officials announced a decision to change the rules on 18th May. Now, they say, airlines can fly where the ash cloud is not very dense, or thick. But they have to get permission from the companies that build the aircraft engines. Since the ash cloud problems first started these companies have been doing tests to see what effect the ash has on their engines.

Some volcanologists – scientists who study volcanoes – predict volcanic ash clouds from Iceland could

cause problems with air travel for several years. Iceland has 35 large active volcanoes. Some of the scientists believe there is a pattern to volcanic eruptions there. It seems every 140 years there is a period when the number of eruptions increases. This means more eruptions are expected in the next ten years. Each eruption can last for a long time. For instance, the last eruption of Eyjafjallajökull lasted for 15 months. ■

NEANDERTHAL DISCOVERY

Many paleoanthropologists – scientists who study ancient humans – have wondered if Neanderthals and modern humans ever mixed together or mated. Now a large international team of scientists say it has found proof the two species did mix.

The name Neanderthal comes from a place in Germany in which some of the first Neanderthal bones were found, in 1856. Neanderthals, or *Homo neanderthalis*, are believed to have [diverged](#) from modern humans, or *Homo sapiens*, around 400,000 years ago.

Neanderthals lived in what we now call Europe and parts of the Middle East, while modern humans lived in Africa. Experts believe some modern humans began to move out of Africa and spread around the world between 70,000 and 60,000 years ago. When these humans moved into the Middle East and Europe it is likely they came into contact with Neanderthals already living there. Yet by 30,000 years ago the Neanderthals had died out, or become extinct.

Neanderthals were shorter but more muscular than *Homo sapiens*. They had brains the same size as, or slightly larger than, those of

modern humans. They're known to have used stone tools, body paint and jewellery. They also looked after the sick and old members of their groups and buried their dead. Many scientists say Neanderthals probably had some form of spoken language to communicate.



Artist's impression of a group of Neanderthals

The large team of scientists studied Neanderthal bones found in Russia, Spain, France and Croatia. From these bones they managed to put together about two thirds of the Neanderthal genes, or genome.

This Neanderthal genome was compared to the genomes of modern humans from different places in the world. The scientists discovered between one and four percent of the genome of non-African people is the same as that of the Neanderthals. However, the genomes from people in Africa do not show these similarities.

The scientists' results show that some modern humans did mate with Neanderthals after leaving Africa. The descendants of these humans and Neanderthals then moved on, to Europe and other parts of the world.

Although the scientists' work might solve one mystery of the Neanderthals it does not solve another – the reason they became extinct. Some scientists think Neanderthals were unable to compete with the modern humans who moved into the places where they lived. Others say the Neanderthals' food

supply may have disappeared, or that their bodies were unable to cope with a sudden change in the climate. ■

APPLE TREE IN SPACE

On 14th May Atlantis, one of NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) space shuttles, was launched from Florida, in the USA. Its mission will last for 12 days.

On 16th May the shuttle docked with the International Space Station (ISS) to deliver a Russian space **module**. Also on board Atlantis, which over the 12 day period will travel a total of 7.9 million kilometres (4.9 million miles), is a small piece of wood from a special tree.

The ten centimetre (3.9 inch) long piece of wood has the initials 'IN' carved on it. These stand for Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727), a famous British scientist and mathematician. He worked to find explanations for things such as forces, movement and light. He was also puzzled by how the Moon stayed in orbit at a certain distance from the Earth. He suspected a force must have an effect on the planets and stars, holding them in place. We now know this force as gravity.

Sir Isaac Newton told a friend that he had his first ideas about gravity after seeing an apple fall from a tree in his garden. He worked out that the force pulling the apple downwards must be the same one that holds all the stars and planets in place.

Sir Isaac Newton's house is now a museum and an apple tree still stands in the garden. Many people believe the tree is not the one standing when Sir Isaac Newton was alive, but say it could be a descendant of it.

Sir Isaac Newton was president of the Royal Society from 1703 until he died. It is one of the oldest science organisations in the world, and its members are some of the world's leading scientists. The Royal Society is based in London, the capital of the UK. This year it is celebrating its 350th anniversary.

Piers Sellers is one astronaut travelling on the Atlantis space shuttle. He was born in the UK. After being selected for the Atlantis flight he asked the Royal Society if it would like him to take something into space as part of its anniversary celebrations. The Society decided to give him a small piece of wood taken from the apple tree in Newton's garden.



Atlantis space shuttle launch

On the ISS, Mr Sellers allowed the piece of wood to float in zero gravity. He said if an apple were to drop from a tree in the ISS, the apple would *not* fall to the ground like Newton's did, as it would be in zero gravity! He believes Newton would have loved to see this. After his return Mr Sellers will hand the piece of wood back to the Royal Society, where it will be put on display.

Each of NASA's three space shuttles, Atlantis, Discovery and Endeavour, will be retired by the end of 2010. This is Atlantis's final flight. After returning it will be put in a museum. The last flights for Discovery and Endeavour are planned for September and November. ■

LEDA CLAY

Four members of a family were killed in a landslide in Québec, in Canada, on 10th May. The family's house suddenly collapsed as a huge **crater** opened up in the ground beneath it.

The landslide happened late in the evening in a rural area north of one of Canada's largest cities, Montréal. A large area of ground measuring about one kilometre (0.6 miles) long and 0.5 kilometres (0.3 miles) wide suddenly sank downwards. It created a hole between 30 and 40 metres (98 and 131 feet) deep.



Part of the wide valley in Canada that was formerly covered by the Champlain Sea

A road also dropped into the crater. A man driving along it was unable to stop and his vehicle fell into the hole. The driver was injured but managed to climb out of the car. He said it took him nearly an hour to climb out of the crater and get to a house for help. He called the police to tell them about the landslide.

One local geologist – a scientist who studies rocks – said the type of ground in this part of Canada means these landslides, where the ground suddenly sinks, are not uncommon. The reason for them goes back thousands of years. This part of Canada was once under a large saltwater sea – known as the Champlain Sea. The sea was formed as ice sheets melted and moved northwards. Yet by around 10,000 years ago the sea had drained away.

A type of clay, called Leda clay or quick clay, built up on the bottom of the Champlain Sea. This clay includes tiny pieces of rock created by the movements of the ice. Salt from the water that was in the sea helps hold the clay and tiny pieces of rock together. But freshwater – in the form of rain – can, over long periods of time, slowly wash the salt away. When enough of the salt has been washed away the clay is no longer 'held together'. It can then suddenly turn into a liquid form. This is called liquefaction. When this happens large areas of Leda clay can flow down a hillside or sink to form a crater. This, the geologist said, is what happened near Montréal.

Firefighters tried to get into the building to find the family, but the ground kept moving and it was too dangerous. The next day, when it was light, machinery was used to dig down and find the bodies. The family's dog survived, because it had been tied to a tree outside the house.

People were evacuated from five other homes in the area. Some were worried the landslide had damaged the **foundations** of their houses. Geologists were called to the area to work out if other houses were at risk. Officials say more geological investigations will be done to try to find out if more landslides are likely.

The worst Leda clay landslide in Canada happened in 1908. Then 33 people were killed in a village called Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette, in Québec. Leda clay is found only in Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Russia and the American state of Alaska. All these places are in the north of the northern hemisphere – areas that were covered by thick ice sheets thousands of years ago. ■

WORLD-FAMOUS SHOP SOLD

Harrods, in London, the capital of the UK, is one of the best-known **luxury** shops in the world. On 8th May it was announced that the famous shop had been sold for around £1.5 billion (US\$2.15 billion).



Harrods

Harrods is often called an emporium, a word that describes a large shop or department store selling many different things. It has about 90,000 square metres (one million square feet) of space. Around 4,000 people work in Harrods' 330 different departments. The store claims to be able to offer anything its customers want. Its motto is *Omnia Omnibus Ubique*, a Latin phrase meaning 'All Things for All People, Everywhere'.

It's estimated 15 million people shop at Harrods every year. Many are tourists visiting London from other countries. The shop has 28 restaurants. Shoppers visiting Harrods can also use its barber's shop, tailor, and watch repair service.

The shop dates back to 1849. Then Charles Henry Harrod, who already had a business selling vegetables, opened a small shop in an area of London called Knightsbridge, where the department store is now. When his son took over the business it quickly grew and began selling many other things. In 1883 the shop burnt down. The present

Harrods is the one that was built after the fire.

In 1985, Mohammed Al-Fayed, a businessman born in Egypt, bought Harrods for £615 million (US\$879 million). In the past Mr Al-Fayed has said he would never sell Harrods. It is not known why he changed his mind. Yet soon after the sale was announced Mr Al-Fayed said he wanted to retire and spend more time with his many grandchildren.

The new owner of Harrods is the Qatar Investment Authority. This organisation is what is known as a sovereign wealth fund. Some rich countries, such as Qatar, run these types of funds. The funds invest large amounts of money in precious metals, foreign businesses, property, shares and bonds. The Qatar Investment Authority is run by Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani. He is a member of Qatar's royal family, and is prime minister of the oil-rich country.

In the past Harrods has been the first shop to do many unusual things. For example, in 1889 it opened one of the world's first 'moving staircases' or escalators. More recently the shop hired a live poisonous snake – an Egyptian cobra – to guard a pair of sandals in its shoe department. The sandals were decorated with rubies and diamonds and were on sale for £62,000 (US\$89,000). The snake was not needed for a long time as the sandals were sold within three hours. ■

MYSTERY POPPY DISEASE

Poppy plants in Afghanistan have been suffering from a mysterious disease. Some Afghan people have accused both the USA and UK of secretly spraying the plants with

a special chemical designed to kill them. Both countries deny this. They claim insects or a natural fungus is affecting the poppy plants.

Opium comes from the seedpods of poppy flowers. It is used to make the addictive drug heroin. This drug is a big problem in many countries. It is sold illegally. People who take heroin can easily become addicted to it. Criminal gangs often control the buying and selling of the drug.

Many Afghan farmers grow poppies. Experts at the United Nations (UN) estimate at least 90% of the world's opium comes from poppy plants grown in the southern part of Afghanistan. Most of this is turned into heroin, which is then illegally smuggled to many countries all around the world.

In 2001 the USA led an invasion of Afghanistan soon after a militant group called al-Qaeda attacked New York City and Washington DC. Al-Qaeda was based in Afghanistan and was assisted by the Taliban. This group was in control of Afghanistan at the time. The Taliban was quickly defeated by the USA. However, many of its fighters retreated to remote mountainous areas of the country near the border with Pakistan.

In 2003 troops from several other NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries, including the UK, joined the USA in fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Taliban is known to get most of the money it uses to buy weapons from selling opium and heroin.

NATO forces in the south of Afghanistan have tried to persuade local farmers to grow crops other than opium such as wheat and fruit. NATO wants to reduce the amount of money the Taliban receives and stop the illegal heroin trade. But many Afghan farmers in the south

of the country still prefer to grow poppy plants. This is because they can make more money from poppies than from any other crop.



Afghan farmer with poppy plants

Some experts have suggested the USA and NATO troops in Afghanistan should destroy all the poppy fields. But others say if farmers were unable to make any money by growing poppies, they would be more likely to join the Taliban. Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, has also forbidden the spraying of poppy fields with chemicals designed to kill the plants.

UN officials working in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, are now testing some of the diseased poppies. They say these tests will show what is killing the plants. ■

GRIZZLY-POLAR BEAR

In April, a hunter in northern Canada shot a polar bear that he believed was a threat to a small village. The bear had approached and entered some people's empty homes. After the bear had been killed, the hunter noticed something unusual about its colour. Biologists – scientists who study plants and animals – have now confirmed that the animal the hunter shot was part grizzly bear and part polar bear.

Polar bears are among the largest land carnivores, or meat-eaters, in the world. They live in the Arctic,

both on the ice and along seashores. They have large rough paw pads to help them hunt on the sea ice, where they prey on seals. An adult male polar bear can weigh up to 770 kilograms (1,700 pounds) and be almost three metres (ten feet) long. Grizzly bears are smaller than polar bears. Adult grizzlies weigh around 360 kilograms (800 pounds). Grizzlies are omnivores. This means they eat both plants, such as berries and roots, and other animals, such as fish and rodents.

Although the bear that was shot had the white colouring of a polar bear, its legs and paws were brown.



Polar bear

The biologists who studied it said the shape of the bear was similar to a grizzly bear. It had a much wider head than a polar bear's. The biologists tested the bear's DNA and found it had some genes of both the grizzly bear and polar bear. A mix of two species such as this is called a hybrid.

What interested the biologists was that the bear's DNA showed it was a hybrid of a grizzly bear and a grizzly-polar bear. The bear's mother was a hybrid of a grizzly and a polar bear. So the bear that was recently shot is what's known as a second-generation hybrid.

This type of hybrid has been found once before, in April 2006. The biologists are not sure if the two bears were related.



Grizzly bear

They now say they want to do more DNA tests to try to find out.

One scientist said climate change might have something to do with

why these hybrid bears now exist. The sea ice in the Arctic, where polar bears live, has been shrinking as temperatures have risen. This, he believes, means in the warmer summer months polar bears can be stranded on land. Here they are more likely to meet with grizzly bears than if they were out on the ice.

The hunter who shot the grizzly-polar hybrid now plans to sell the bear's unusual fur, or pelt. ■

NEW NIGERIAN LEADERS

On 6th May an [inauguration](#) ceremony was held in Nigeria. The special ceremony confirmed Goodluck Jonathan as president. Previously Mr Jonathan was vice-president of Nigeria. The ceremony was held the day after it was announced that the country's elected president, Umaru Yar'Adua, had died.

Mr Yar'Adua won Nigeria's presidential election in 2007. Yet in November last year he went to Saudi Arabia to get special medical treatment. Although his illness was not explained, many thought he had a disease that affected both his heart and his kidneys.

Nigeria has a population of 155 million – the largest in Africa. It has large supplies of oil but many of its people live in poverty. Most experts agree this can happen because of bad management and government corruption. One of the country's biggest problems is frequent violence between people from the mainly Muslim north of the country and the mostly Christian south.

As President Yar'Adua was away for a long time, many complained the problems were getting worse. They claimed the country needed a leader. No-one was told for how long

the president was going to be away or how serious his illness was. Some even thought he had died and his death was being kept secret. A situation in which a country has no leader is often called a 'power vacuum'.

President Yar'Adua returned to Nigeria in February, but he was still very ill. The few people who were allowed to visit him said he would recover. Vice-President Jonathan was eventually appointed 'acting president' until the president was well enough to take up his job again.

This leadership problem in Nigeria have been complicated by an 'unwritten rule'. Nigeria holds a presidential election every four years. In Nigeria it is the president who runs the country. A president can rule for two terms or eight years in a row. The 'unwritten rule' is that the presidency should [alternate](#) between the country's two main faiths. If one four- or eight-year term is held by a Christian, the next one should be held by a Muslim.



Goodluck Jonathan, president of Nigeria

Mr Yar'Adua and Mr Jonathan both represent the same political party – the People's Democratic Party. Mr Yar'Adua was a Muslim from the north; Mr Jonathan is a Christian from the south. Because of Mr Yar'Adua's death, Mr Jonathan has become president during the term when it is a Muslim's 'turn' to lead the country. Many Muslim politicians are unhappy about this.

On 13th May Mr Jonathan announced that he had appointed Namadi Sambo as vice-president. Mr Sambo is a Muslim. The next presidential election will be held in 2011. Some think both men may want to be the People's Democratic Party's presidential candidate. This, they say, could cause problems because of the 'unwritten rule'. ■

DO BABIES RECOGNISE GOOD AND EVIL?

Scientists at a university in the USA say telling good from evil may be something we are able to do when we're as young as six months old.

The scientists did an experiment in which they showed babies short films and puppet shows with 'good' and 'bad' characters. They wanted to see if the babies could tell the difference between a helpful and an unhelpful character, and to find out if babies preferred the helpful one.



Babies

To do this the researchers timed for how long the babies looked at each character. One thing scientists know about young babies is that they will look for a longer time at something that makes them feel happy than at something that does not.

The characters in the films are shapes. In one, a red ball tries to climb a mountain. A yellow square tries to help push it up, while a green

triangle tries to push the red ball down. The scientists then timed how long the babies looked at the different shapes. Most babies looked at the yellow square – the 'helpful' shape – for the longest period.

The research was done at a centre that studies babies' cognitive development. Cognitive is a word that describes things related to how we learn, understand and know. The scientists at the centre are interested in finding out if humans are born with certain abilities and understanding, and how early in life we develop these things.

The scientists also did a study into whether babies understand the idea of treating other people in the same way in which they treat you. For example, if someone is kind to us, it feels 'right' to be kind back.

Again, the babies were shown a video. This time a shape is helping another shape to climb a mountain. But the shapes also switch roles – so the 'helper' also wants to climb the mountain. In the video, the 'climber' decides to be unhelpful to the shape that helped it before. The researchers wanted to find out if babies are surprised that a character that received help would not give help back.

Some people were surprised by what the scientists said they had discovered. Many think that learning what is good or evil, or right or wrong, is something children are taught or learn when they are much older. But the scientists say their experiments seem to show babies are born with these abilities.

Yet other scientists say the experiments have too many other possible reasons that could explain the babies' reactions. For instance, the babies could simply prefer yellow to green, or prefer to watch things moving upwards rather than downwards. ■

POMPIDOU CENTRE OPENS IN FRANCE

A new museum has opened in Metz, in northern France. The museum is a branch, or satellite, of the world-famous Pompidou Centre in Paris, the country's capital. Nicolas Sarkozy, the president of France, officially opened the museum on 11th May.

The Pompidou Centre in Paris was opened in 1977. It is the largest modern art museum in the world, with more than 65,000 works of art. It is named after Georges Pompidou, the president of France from 1969 to 1974. He wanted to create a centre that would [showcase](#) modern and [contemporary](#) art.



Pompidou-Metz museum

Even the building was designed to follow this theme. Its modern architecture showed off the building's structure and mechanisms on the outside. The plumbing, electrical and heating systems were designed as art. The pipes, which are also on the outside of the building, are colour-coded to show their function.

The new museum, called the Pompidou-Metz, is also a very distinctive building. It has an [undulating](#) white roof. At night, the light from inside the museum illuminates the roof.

The new museum will show exhibits from the Pompidou Centre's collection that the main museum does not have room to display. But officials say the Pompidou-Metz

will not just be a place to see works of art that would otherwise be stored away. They say the new centre gives the opportunity to exhibit new media alongside well-known works of art. It also has a space to hold live performances and show films.

The museum's first exhibition is called 'Masterpieces?'. It shows works by famous artists including Andy Warhol, Joan Miro, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali. Officials hope the new centre will encourage tourists to visit Metz when they travel to France.

The opening celebrations took place from 12th to 16th May. People were invited to see the building and exhibition free of charge. The museum also participated in a festival called La Nuit des Musées (Museum Night). On the night of 15th May, museums across Europe were lit up and opened to visitors late at

night. Many had special events and festivals to mark the occasion.

The Pompidou-Metz held a special show in which members of the public were invited to take part. Each person taking part was given a white umbrella that lit up from the inside, like the museum's roof. The new museum was open to visitors until one o'clock in the morning. ■

GLOBAL FOREST LOSS

Scientists in the USA have released a report that describes how much of the Earth's forests have been 'lost' over a five year period. The biggest loss, they say, has not been from rainforests, but from **boreal** forests.

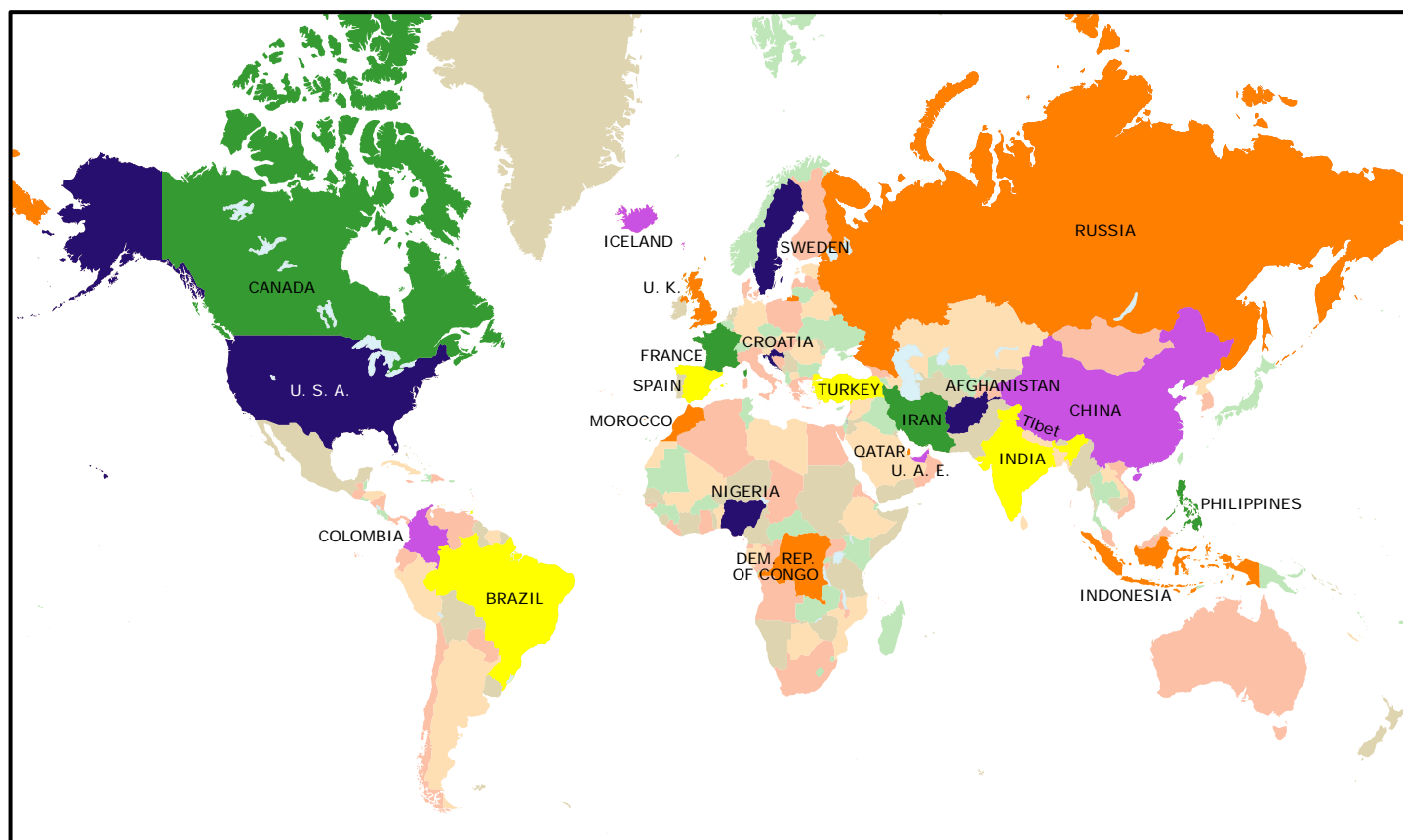
Boreal forests are also known by the Russian word 'taiga'. They are made up of coniferous trees, which have needle-shaped leaves and

pinecones. Coniferous trees do not lose their leaves in winter. Boreal forests are found in the northern parts of North America, Europe and Asia.



Boreal forest

The Earth's surface is covered with a large amount of forest. Trees are important for life on the Earth for several reasons. They provide habitats for thousands of different species of animals. A process called photosynthesis that takes place in their leaves converts carbon dioxide into oxygen for living things to breathe. And humans use products



from trees for hundreds of different things, from building houses to making medicines.

The scientists studied forests in seven countries that have more than one million square kilometres (386,000 square miles) of forest. These were Russia, Brazil, the USA, Canada, China, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. To do this the researchers looked at satellite pictures taken over a five-year period, between 2000 and 2005. They used the pictures to work out the gross forest cover loss (GFCL) – the amount by which each forest had reduced in size. ‘Gross’ is another word for ‘overall’ or ‘total’.

The other large forests, apart from taiga, in the world are found in warmer tropical areas. These are called rainforests – named for the very large amounts of rainfall there. Rainforests, most of which are in Brazil, tropical Africa and Indonesia, have very large, tall trees with a high **canopy**. Scientists estimate that half the world’s species of plants and animals live in rainforests. In recent years these forests have become threatened by human activity such as cutting down trees to sell the wood (called logging), and farming.

The scientists’ study showed that between 2000 and 2005 boreal forests had a much larger GFCL than rainforests.

The scientists say it’s important to think about the reasons for the different types of forests getting smaller. They say 60% of the boreal forests’ GFCL is due to natural forest fires. These are a normal and necessary part of a forest’s life cycle. Yet after natural fires, logging was one of the main causes of boreal forest loss in the USA – the country that showed the highest GFCL out of those studied.

The scientists also said it would now be important to study the recovery rates of forests – or how quickly trees begin to regrow. Then, they say, they will know exactly what the long-term effects of GFCL are. ■

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) have released a report on the causes of deaths in infants around the world. The report is part of a check to see if countries are on their way to meeting targets called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MDGs have been agreed upon and set by all 192 member countries of the UN. The goals were set ten years ago. All are meant to be achieved by 2015. There are eight MDGs in total. These include reducing poverty, making sure every child is able to have an education, improving health, preventing diseases such as AIDS and malaria, and making sure that men and women are treated equally.

The fourth MDG is to lower the number of deaths in children under five years old. The UN wants to reduce the number of child deaths by two thirds from the number that there were in 1990.

In 2008, experts estimate, almost 8.8 million children under five years old died. The study found al-

most 70% of this number was due to infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, and malaria. The study also said 41% of these infant deaths happened in the few months following a baby’s birth.

The study did find the number of child deaths has fallen since 2000. But the number is not being reduced quickly enough to meet the MDG by 2015. The scientists who did the study say the information in it can now be used to set up special health programmes. These programmes will target the infectious illnesses that the report says are the biggest

problem. They will also be aimed at improving the health of pregnant women. This should give their babies the best chance of being healthy.

Infectious diseases such as diarrhoea can often be prevented quite easily. Children can get diarrhoea if they live in places where drinking water is not clean or safe. So making sure everywhere has safe drinking water is a simple but very important part of preventing this illness.

The leader, or Secretary-General, of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, has also written a report. It

is called ‘Keeping the Promise’. His report lists the MDGs where there have been successes. It also states where targets have not been met and makes recommendations for what must be done between now and 2015 to achieve all eight goals.

This year the UN will hold a meeting, or summit, at its headquarters in New York City, in the USA,



NewsCAST

NOT CHOCOLATE BARS, BUT... — A hotel in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has installed a new vending machine. When customers insert notes in the local currency, the dirham, the machine dispenses gold bars. Customers can buy gold coins as well as gold bars weighing up to ten grams (0.4 ounces). The machine itself is plated with gold. A German company developed the vending machine. The company says the gold makes a good souvenir for hotel guests. The price of gold often varies. Currently the gold price is around £800 (US\$1,145) per 28 grams (one ounce).

in September. The summit is being held to check on whether member countries are keeping their promises, which will enable them to meet all the MDGs in 2015. ■

RARE 'SEA SERPENT' FOUND

A fisherman in Sweden was surprised when what he thought was a large piece of floating plastic turned out to be a rare deep-sea fish. The 73-year old man was walking along the shore on 8th May when he made his unusual discovery.

The dead fish measures 3.7 metres (12 feet) in length and has silver and blue-grey scales. Experts confirmed it was a giant oarfish. They say this type of fish has not been seen in the seas around Sweden for over 130 years.

Scientists who study sea creatures say not very much is known about this giant deep-sea fish. It is the world's largest bony fish. Bony fish are all fish except sharks, skates

and rays. These three types of fish have skeletons that are composed of cartilage, not bone. The giant oarfish can grow to over eight metres (26 feet). Yet some people have reported seeing ones that are much longer. The oarfish lives at depths of between 200 and 1,000 metres (656 and 3,280 feet).

What is unusual about the fisherman's discovery is that the giant oarfish is known to live in warm waters. Experts say its natural habitat is in the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern Atlantic Ocean. It is therefore unusual for one to be found as far north as Sweden.

Scientists think the only live oarfish ever seen is one that was filmed last February. A group of scientists spotted it while using an underwater camera. This was during a study called the Serpent Project. The oarfish was filmed swimming in the Gulf of Mexico. Oil companies working in the area let the scientists use their remotely controlled submarine vehicles to film species that live there. The Gulf of Mexico is where oil has recently been leaking out of a broken pipe on the seabed. An explosion on an oil rig broke the pipe, which has now been leaking oil for over four weeks.



The oarfish that was filmed in the Gulf of Mexico last February

The fisherman who found the giant oarfish on the Swedish coast took it to a local aquarium where it will be studied. ■

APPLE AND ADOBE

An argument has broken out between two of America's most famous hi-tech companies, Apple and Adobe. The argument is mainly about a technology produced by Adobe called Flash.

Apple is a company that makes hardware and software. It is famous for its Macintosh computers, iPod music player, iPhone mobile phone and its new iPad, which looks similar to a laptop without the keyboard. Apple is led by Steve Jobs, who helped to set up the company in 1976.



Adobe is a software company. Its well-known software products such as Photoshop and Illustrator are made to run on all types of computers. John Warnock and Charles Geschke founded Adobe in 1982. One of the company's products is Flash. This is a type of software that can be used in web pages. It has many uses including streaming video and web-based games.

Recently Mr Jobs said Flash does not work well on Apple products with touch screens or on its hand-held devices, including the new iPad. Mr Jobs said Flash is the software most likely to make Apple products crash, or shut down. He decided he would not allow Adobe's Flash software to be installed on many Apple products.

Mr Jobs has also complained Flash is 'proprietary'. He claims that Adobe protects and does not share information on how the software works with other software developers. Mr Jobs said he believes software used over the internet should be 'open source', the opposite of proprietary. Mr Jobs does admit some of Apple's products

are proprietary, but says these are not ones used on the internet. He also believes HTML5, a new standard for making web pages, can do what Flash does. So he prefers to make use of HTML5 for streaming video and online games.

Many smaller software companies are now making applications, or apps, and computer games that can be used on Apple's products. In April Mr Jobs said these companies should not include any Flash in the apps they are producing.

Adobe disagrees with what Mr Jobs has done. The company claims Flash is 'open'. The two founders of Adobe say it is important that people are able to choose their apps, and how they access things via the internet, whatever device they are using. The two men insist no company, no matter how big or popular it is, should be allowed to **dictate** what people can do on the world wide web.

Currently there is no sign of an end to the dispute. Adobe has been placing advertisements on websites and in newspapers in the USA. These say Adobe 'loves' Apple, but dislikes anybody who takes away people's freedom to use the web in any way they want to. ■



CLIMBING GENES?

A new study says there may be a reason why some people who live in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China can live and work at a high **altitude**. The study suggests that among other things, it's in their genes.

The human body needs oxygen to stay alive. At sea level, oxygen makes up about 21% of the

mixture of gasses in the air we breathe. At very high altitude the amount, or concentration, of oxygen in the air becomes much less. This makes it harder for people to breathe in the amount of oxygen they need.



Tibetans

People who aren't used to the low-oxygen air can get a condition called hypoxia. This is also known as mountain sickness. Hypoxia can cause nausea, or a sense of feeling sick, and headaches. Once a hypoxic person returns to where there is more oxygen, the condition goes away.

Climbers who regularly go up very high mountains often carry oxygen tanks so their bodies can do the hard physical work needed for climbing, even at high altitude. But the bodies of people who live at high altitude, like most Tibetans, seem to be able to work normally in a low-oxygen atmosphere.

Oxygen is transported around our bodies in blood cells. One previous study of people in Tibet found their blood vessels are wider than those of people living at sea level. This enables oxygen-rich blood to be delivered more efficiently around the body. Now scientists say certain genes could also help to explain how people can live where the air lacks oxygen without becoming hypoxic.

The human body is made up of millions and millions of tiny building blocks called cells. Each cell

contains an even smaller part called the nucleus. The nucleus carries a set of **coded** information, called genes. They determine things such as the colour of a person's eyes and hair.

The study compared the genes of Tibetan people living above 4,480 metres (14,700 feet) with the genes of Japanese and Chinese people living in lowland areas. The genes of Japanese, Chinese and Tibetan people are very similar. This makes any differences between them easier to spot. The study found two genes in the Tibetan people's samples that were not the same as those of the Chinese or Japanese people who lived at lower altitude. Both have something to do with the blood. The scientists think it could be these genes in people living at high altitude that help their bodies work normally where there is much less oxygen than at lower altitude.

The study is an example of how scientists are now beginning to understand more about how changed, or mutated, genes affect things. This includes whether a person will get certain illnesses as well as why some people are affected by certain conditions and others are not. ■

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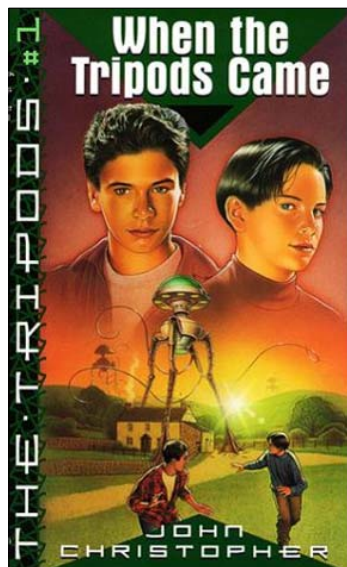
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



Laurie and Andy are two ordinary English boys who, while hiking through the countryside, end up getting a little lost. Luckily, they stumble across an old farm with a storage shed that they use as shelter. That evening becomes the last normal day of life for planet Earth, because with the dawn these boys witness first-hand a wave of hostile alien invaders crashing to the Earth from outer space.

Three space ships land: the first in Montana, in the USA; the second in Kazakhstan, in the Soviet Union; and the third lands almost on top of the boys in Dartmoor, in the UK. The ships are quickly nicknamed 'Tripods' because of their three long slender legs with a small body at the top.

The American Tripod is soon surrounded by American military forces, but largely left alone. The Russian Tripod is promptly destroyed with rockets as soon as it is discovered. The English Tripod is immediately aggressive. It rips the farmhouse to pieces, killing the dog and abducting – and then dissecting – the farmer.

The British army arrives with a strategy. First it plays classical music to the Tripod, and then sends in a tank with a white flag. The British Tripod enjoys the symphony, then picks the tank up and squeezes it to half of its original size. Quickly, the air force pulverises the Tripod with rockets. And Laurie and Andy, hiding helplessly in the shed, witness everything.

In the end, the world decides the 'invasion' of only three tripods was something of a joke and life returns to normal.

But the aliens were just scouting, and the second invasion is much more insidious. It begins with a weird TV 'Tripod' show. The 'Trippies', as the show's enthusiastic followers become known, gaze longingly at the TV during the show and can think of nothing else except catching the next episode. Soon the Trippies begin behaving erratically and even violently if they are cut off from the show.

Eventually it's the Trippies who prepare landing zones for the second invasion. This time the Tripods number in the thousands and are scattered around most of the population centres of the Earth. To make matters worse, governments are reluctant to attack, because the Trippies attach themselves to the Tripods and act as human shields.

When the Tripods Came owes a lot to H. G. Wells, the author of *The War of the Worlds*, from which the idea of alien tripods that snatch up and dissect people comes. I found the nature of this invasion quite clever. It isn't one of huge battles pitting the Earth's war machines against those of the aliens. Instead it is more efficient and clever. The aliens use those three initial landings to learn the Earth's weaknesses, and develop technologies to exploit them.

For example, the TV show is just a way to brainwash a large number of human followers and I find that believable. (Who hasn't watched someone space out in front of a TV, right?) What I find disturbing is the cool acceptance of the aliens in some cultures, while others fight back.

This is a good book to read if you are interested in thinking about what freedom means, a right that many of us take for granted but that Laurie and Andy regard highly. I recommend this book to readers aged ten and up and for anyone who likes science fiction. *When the Tripods Came* is a prequel to the Tripods Trilogy: *The White Mountains*, *The City of Gold and Lead* and *The Pool of Fire*.

Tripods – When the Tripods Came by John Christopher. Simon Pulse.

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

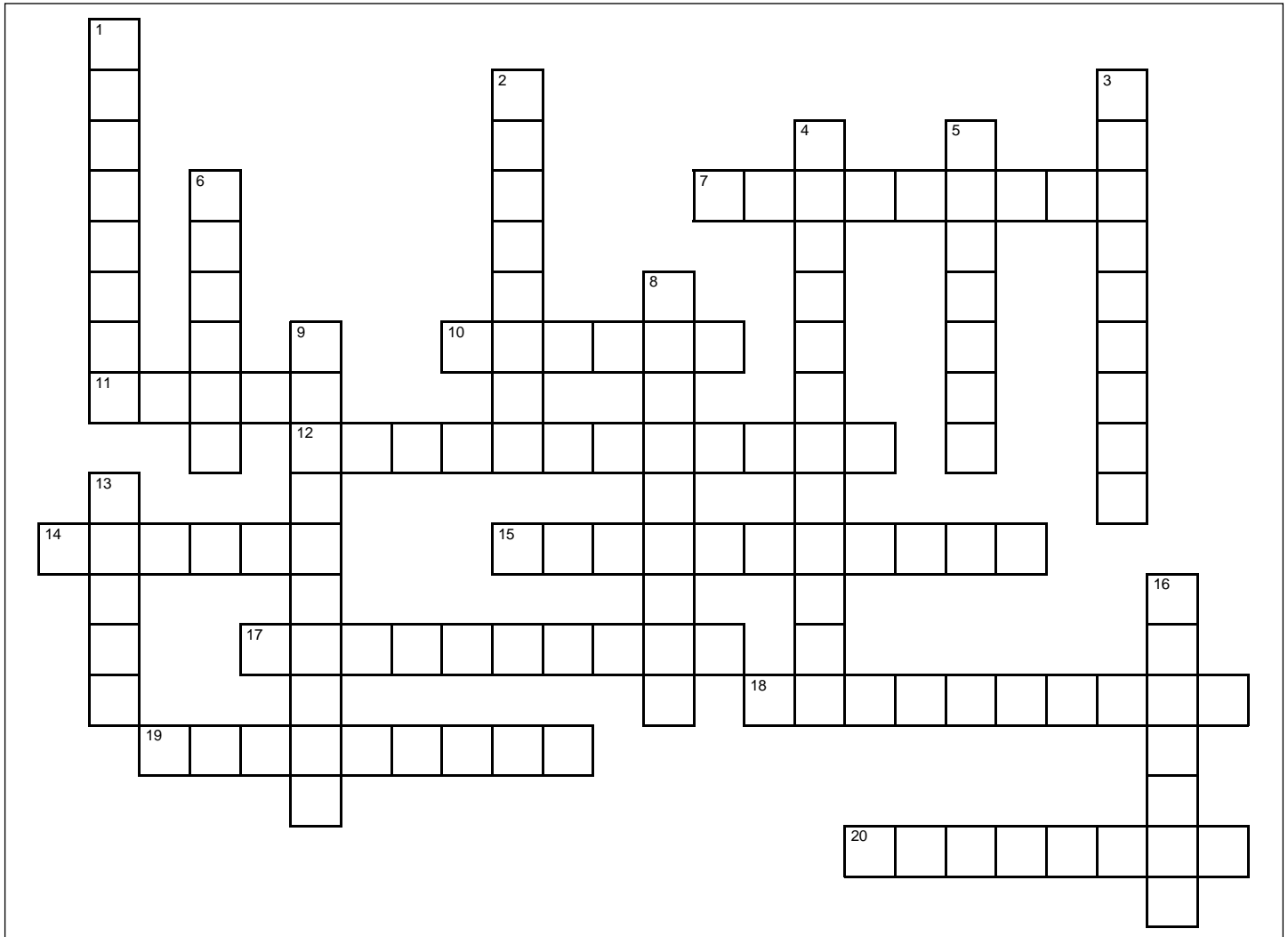
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Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 7 *Noun (Plural)* Measures applied to force another country to stop doing something
- 10 *Noun* The branches and leaves of trees that spread out and form a type of roof
- 11 *Noun* A triangular area at the mouth of a river where it spreads into branches
- 12 *Adjective* Belonging to the present time
- 14 *Adjective* Describes something from the north or northern regions
- 15 *Noun (Plural)* Parts of a building below ground that support it
- 17 *Verb* Encouraged something to grow, develop or be more active
- 18 *Adjective* Describes something that rises and falls in the shape or style of waves
- 19 *Verb* To happen one after the other repeatedly
- 20 *Verb* Gained official protection for your invention to exclude other people from making or selling something the same

Down

- 1 *Verb* Became different or went in a different direction
- 2 *Verb* To show off or display the best parts of something
- 3 *Adjective* Describes something harmful that happens slowly and secretly
- 4 *Noun* An official ceremony to mark the beginning of a new period
- 5 *Noun (Plural)* Groups of connected cells in a human, animal or plant
- 6 *Noun* A part of a spacecraft
- 8 *Verb* Selected someone for a job or position
- 9 *Noun (Plural)* Buildings, equipment and services provided for a particular purpose
- 13 *Adjective* Describes an arrangement of data or instructions
- 16 *Noun* A tall thin tower near or on a mosque

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